Democratic race crowded

Steven Klar

Steven A. Klar of Port Jefferson announced yesterday that he would seek election as the Democratic Congressman from the First District, the seat vacated by the retiring Otis Pike. Standing in front of a four year old North Bellport home, vacant and boarded over, Klar attacked "unacceptable taxation and government policies that take jobs from our area," on which he blamed a rash of home foreclosures and a substantial weakening of the Long Island economy in recent years.

Other leading candidates for the First District Congressional Seat in the Democratic Party are Brookhaven Supervisor John Randolph and committeeman Patrick Russell. Randolph was given the party's designation but Russell has promised a primary fight.

Calling Long Island "a national symbol of growth and prosperity" during the post-war years, Klar said that the "symbol has been tarnished" by skyrocketing inflation and tax rates. Klar made his campaign kick-off announcement in front of the boarded-up house to dramatize what he called "the brutal symptoms of Long Island's stand-still economy."

The platform of the Klar campaign, his first for public office, he said, was "clear and direct": reduce and reform Federal income taxes; reduce and reform Social Security taxes; reduce and reform government spending.

"California's Proposition 13 has struck a raw nerve in the American public," he said, during his announcement speech. "Tax relief is a local issue going national."

Klar pledged to "take to the Democrats of this district a campaign based on the only major issues that matter today — fiscal responsibility and tax relief." A private poll of Suffolk County Democrats, he said, found that "the voters of this district have not made up their minds yet" on a candidate for the party primary on Sept. 12. "This is a wide open primary," he said. "The independent Democrats of this district cannot be delivered to a hand-picked successor."

Steve Klar, 31, is an attorney and owner of Klar Realty, a Long Island firm begun by his father, Henry A. Klar, in 1947. Steve was raised and attended public schools on Long Island. He was awarded a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Toledo in Ohio in 1969. He served in the Army for six years, on active duty and in the active reserves, after college. He attended Brooklyn Lawn School where he was awarded a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in 1973, and was admitted to the New York State Bar the next year. His father and mother, Gloria, live in Westhampton Beach and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.